

Building safer futures

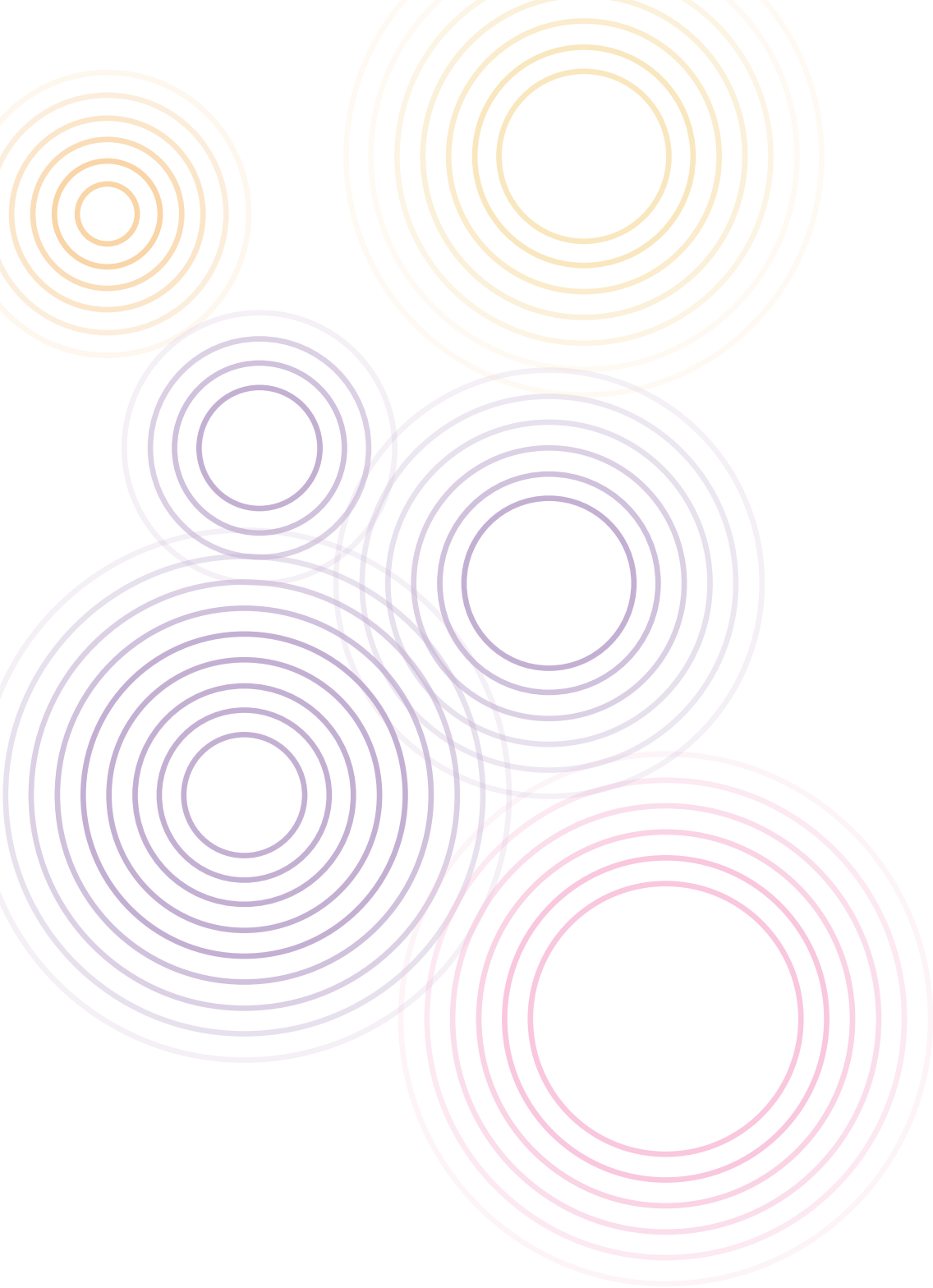
South Australia's whole-of-government response
to the Royal Commission into
Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

5-year Implementation Plan 2026–2030



**Government of
South Australia**

August 2026



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Acknowledgement of Country

The Government of South Australia acknowledges and respects Aboriginal peoples as the state's first peoples and nations and recognises them as Traditional Owners and occupants of the land and waters in South Australia. Further, we acknowledge that the spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices of Aboriginal peoples come from their traditional lands and waters; that they maintain their cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws, which are of ongoing importance; and that they have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the state.

We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have endured past injustice and dispossession of their traditional lands and waters.

We recognise the leadership role Aboriginal people have played in the findings and development of the Royal Commission's report and the role Aboriginal people will play in the implementation and monitoring of the government's response.

Note on language

This Implementation Plan respectfully uses the term 'Aboriginal' to refer to people who identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, while acknowledging the different terms used throughout South Australia, including 'First Nations people'.

Acknowledgement of Lived Experience

The Government of South Australia acknowledges the individual and collective expertise of people with experience of domestic, family and sexual violence. We recognise the vital contribution at all levels and value the courage of those who share this unique perspective for the purpose of learning and growing together to achieve better outcomes for all. The government also acknowledges the South Australian lives lost due to domestic, family and sexual violence.

Foreword

Premier of South Australia

Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

The Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence highlighted the significant and heartbreaking consequences of this scourge in our community.

It marked a defining moment in our state's history and issued an urgent call to action – one which we have heard clearly.

Building Safer Futures – our response to the Royal Commission report – was a commitment to act, and this implementation plan is our early blueprint for delivering it.

It outlines the steps we will take to respond to the report's recommendations in a cohesive, integrated and responsive way.

We do not underestimate the enormity of the reforms ahead of us, but we are not afraid to do the complex and challenging work required to change for the better.

Where it is safe to do so, we are working quickly. Some work is already underway, but it's vitally important that we also take the time to get this transformation right.

We are working with service providers and sector partners, recognising their vital role in delivering quality services and contributing to meaningful change for the people and communities they support.

We are building a system which centres the experiences and needs of children and young people, is informed by lived experience and designed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

We are focussing on people who use violence by holding them to account and supporting them to seek help by expanding existing programs and making them easier to access.

Our system will make sure the voices of victim-survivors are included in everything we do. We are relying on evidence to demonstrate what works to keep people safe and helps them heal.

We will lay the foundations of a better system by extending and stabilising existing services, investing in primary prevention and assessing what works. We will focus on building a system that is flexible enough to learn and adapt, fostering a capable workforce and delivering accountable leadership.

It is vital that we continue to work in partnership with the domestic, family and sexual violence sector and the community to achieve lasting change.

Government cannot do this alone. Everyone has a role to play in building a more connected community that is free from violence.

We are committed to working towards a future where people of all ages, abilities and identities are safe, respected and supported to be free from domestic, family and sexual violence.



Peter Malinauskas MP
**Premier of
South Australia**



Alice Rolls MP
**Minister for
Domestic, Family
and Sexual Violence**

Our vision

The Government of South Australia has heard and responded to the Royal Commission's urgent call for action with the release of *Building Safer Futures: South Australia's whole-of-government response to the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence*, accompanied by a \$674 million investment package over 10 years.

The Royal Commission sought changes that would put people at the centre of systems, stop violence earlier, respond better when it happens, and support long-term recovery. *Building Safer Futures* committed to creating lasting change through collective responsibility and united action. It prioritised actions that would increase the immediate safety of victim-survivors while also laying the foundations needed to build sustainable reform over time.

This initial Implementation Plan sets out how we will deliver *Building Safer Futures* over the next 5 years from 2026 to 2030. We will build a responsive system that is flexible and driven by outcomes.

It will be guided by a clear vision for the future, where:

People of all ages, abilities and identities are safe, respected, and supported to be free from the experience and use of domestic, family and sexual violence

This vision will underpin decision making as we work towards long-term transformation of South Australia's domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) system and its supporting structures.

Many of the recommendations will be rolled out in stages and scaled over the coming years – reflecting advice from the Royal Commission that we should pace implementation to maximise effectiveness.

To achieve lasting change, recommendations that require coordinated efforts across government will be considered together. This will enable related activities to be identified, developed with input from all stakeholders, and sequenced appropriately.

The actions laid out in this Implementation Plan provide the roadmap for government over the next 5 years, working in partnership with the sector, people with lived experience and Aboriginal advisors. The new independent ministerial portfolio for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence and the Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (Office of DFSV) will drive coordinated leadership and accountability for this work.

The Implementation Plan maps the system architecture and structures necessary to meet our *Building Safer Futures* commitments. It details ways of working that prioritise cross-government, lived experience and Aboriginal engagement before outlining how we will ensure accountability through monitoring and evaluation. Finally, the Plan outlines how we will implement the recommendations, who is responsible for each response, and key milestones and timelines.

The Plan identifies the significant early action that has already been taken to uplift and stabilise the existing DFSV system. In addition to meeting some of the most immediate needs of victim-survivors, this early work positions the system well for larger structural changes that will start to occur from mid-2027.

Our plan

In *Building Safer Futures*, the Government of South Australia accepted 63 of the Royal Commission's 136 recommendations. A further 19 were accepted in part, with specific actions scheduled to occur within the life of this Plan.

Six recommendations were noted, with the elements within the remit of the Government of South Australia to be completed.

The implementation of these 88 recommendations form the basis of this Implementation Plan.

The 45 recommendations accepted in principle for future consideration will be considered once the activities in this initial Implementation Plan have been completed. This will enable an assessment of how those recommendations are best enacted within a system that will have changed considerably.

In addition to the 136 Royal Commission recommendations, the Plan details 4 further actions that contribute to a cohesive housing response, as outlined in *Building Safer Futures*. It also includes an initial scoping study related to recommendation 20, which the government accepted in principle for future consideration.

Response profile and definitions

Accept: 63 recommendations

The Government of South Australia accepts the intent of the recommendation and will substantially implement it within the foundational response package.

The implementation approach and/or timeframe may differ from that recommended by the Royal Commission.

Accept in part: 19 recommendations

The Government of South Australia accepts the intent of the recommendation but will focus implementation within the foundational response package on specific elements of the recommendation.

The implementation approach and/or timeframe may differ from that recommended by the Royal Commission.

The remaining elements of the recommendation will be subject to future consideration and consultation.

Accept in principle – for future consideration: 45 recommendations

The Government of South Australia supports the intent of the recommendation and will give it further consideration once the foundational response package has been implemented over time.

This recommendation will be considered after completion of the first Implementation Plan.

Note/accept and note: 6 recommendations

The recommendation highlights shared responsibility and requires joint action.

The Government of South Australia supports the intent of the recommendation and will implement the elements within its remit.

Do not accept: 3 recommendations

The Government of South Australia has considered but will not implement the recommendation.

What we have already done

Early actions taken to implement recommendations

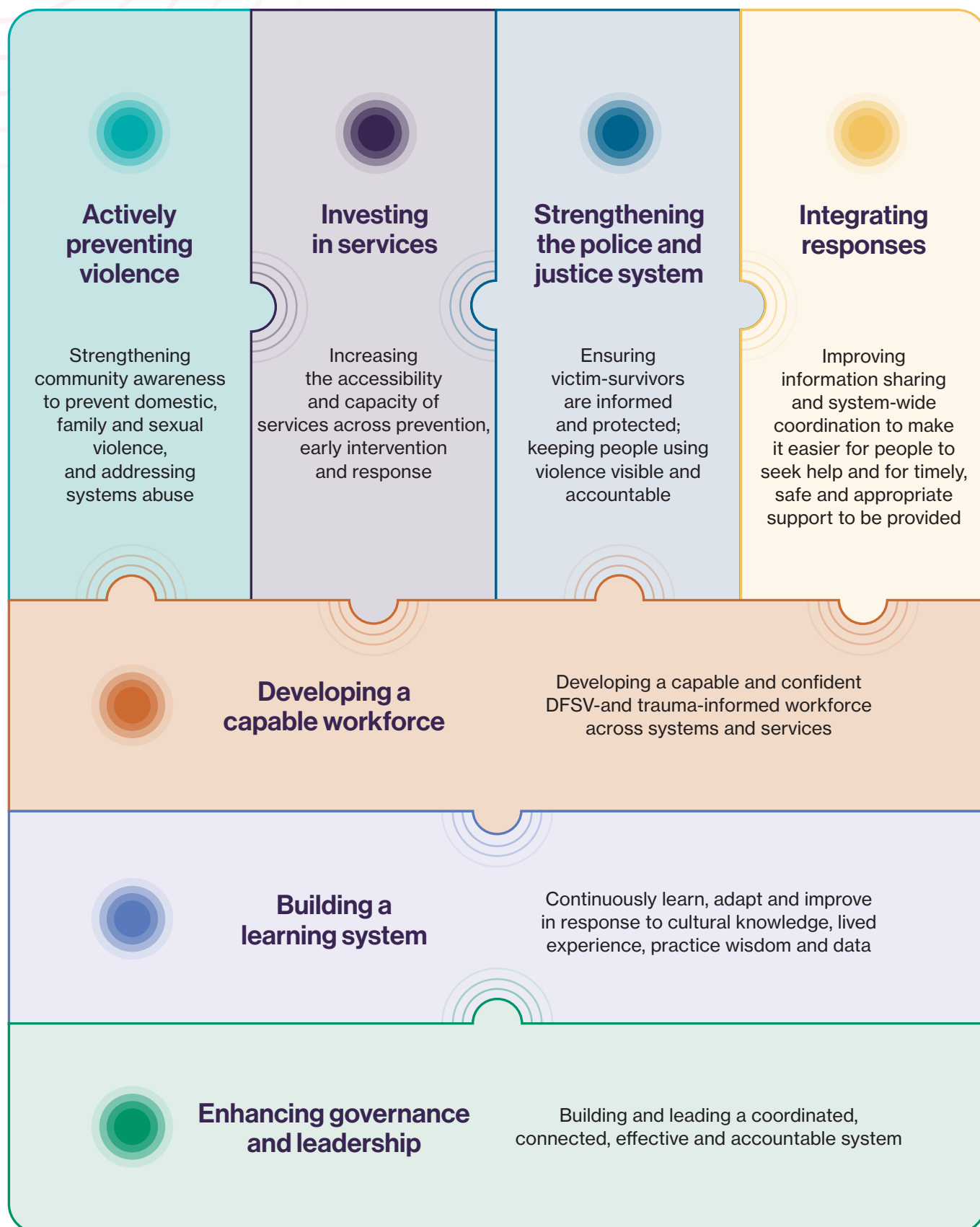
Recommendation	Action Taken	Status
1	Standalone DFSV ministerial portfolio created	✓
2	Office of DFSV established as Government Steward	✓
4	Implementation Plan completed	✓
8	Embolden funded to establish and manage adult Lived Experience Advisory Network	✓
9	DFSV embedded as a whole-of-government priority in Chief Executive Performance Agreements Chief Executives briefed on requirement to include implementation actions in individual performance agreements	✓
23	Homelessness System Review informed by the Royal Commission findings	✓
44	Appointment criteria for Senior Counsel amended	✓
92	Advocated for the Australian Government to progress systems audits and an independent audit of the family law system	✓
95	Advocated for the development of national standards for responsible media reporting on DFSV	✓
102	Increased investment in the Safe at Home program in 2026/27	✓
107	Homelessness mutual obligations waived for 21 days for clients referred by DFV services	✓
134	Advocated to the Australian Government regarding resourcing and support for eSafety Commissioner	✓
Additional housing actions	45 additional public housing properties ring-fenced for people experiencing domestic abuse	✓
	Stamp-duty relief for DFSV victim-survivors	✓
	Private Rental Assistance program means-testing waived for DFSV victim-survivors	✓

What's in progress

Early actions taken towards the implementation of recommendations

Recommendation	Action Taken	Status
3	Grant agreement issued for BetterStart Group to develop DFSV dashboard datasets	
5	DFSV elevated to SAPOL Service level, led by a dedicated Assistant Commissioner	
10	Commenced work to develop 5-year statewide and Aboriginal DFSV strategies	
11	Adult Lived Experience Advisory Network established	
12	Members shortlisted for Lived Experience Advisory Group	
14	Commenced review of risk assessment frameworks	
18 21	Commenced resource planning to support statewide integrated response model	
20	Technological solution feasibility study scoped	
24b	Extended contracts for existing services	
25 26	Commenced review of commissioning practices and contract audit with a new focus on outcomes	
31	Commenced preparation for community awareness campaign	
40g	Commenced work to develop training for investigators and prosecutors	
46	Increased funding for existing Domestic Violence Crisis Line, while a central entry point is developed	
56	Fee-free SA Ambulance Service sexual violence healthcare for people without access to Medicare	
62 64 68 71	Commenced consideration of reforms to the <i>Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009</i>	
75	Recruitment of additional staff to reduce wait times for Abuse Prevention Program assessments underway	
97	Commenced procurement for interim service model to deliver flexible individual safety and support packages	
114	Commenced design process and site selection for metropolitan vulnerable witness suite	
127	Commenced preparation for community primary prevention pilot program	
136	Commenced discussion paper on SA anti-discrimination and anti-vilification frameworks	

How the system will fit together



Actively preventing violence

Strengthening community awareness	31	Community awareness programs
	35	Increase public sector awareness of DFSV and support services
	36	University and vocational training and education sectors to embed DFSV awareness
	95	National standards for DFSV media reporting
	124	Education Ministers to task ACARA with national relationships and sexuality education curriculum
	126	Ministerial Advisory Committee on parental exemptions to relationships and sexuality education
	127	Primary prevention community saturation model
Addressing systems abuse	92	Australian government to progress audits on systems abuse
	93	South Australian audit to identify and address potential for systems abuse
	94	Amendments to the <i>Essential Services Commission Act 2022</i> to increase consumer protections
	110	Review of <i>Residential Tenancies Act 1995</i>
	136	Review South Australian anti-discrimination frameworks
Harm minimisation and alcohol supply	128	Amendments to <i>Liquor Licensing Act 1997</i> (SA) to include harm minimisation references, 2-hour safety pause delay and restrictions on alcohol sale and delivery timelines
	129	Amendments to <i>Liquor Licensing Act 1997</i> (SA) to replace 'domestic violence' with 'domestic, family and sexual violence'
	130	Monitor impacts of changes to <i>Liquor Licensing Act 1997</i> (SA), considering further reform if needed
	131	Disrupt supply of alcohol into dry Aboriginal communities
Safer online spaces	134	Australian government to resource eSafety Commissioner
	135	South Australia to work with eSafety Commissioner

Investing in services

Increasing capacity	24b	Increase capacity in existing services
	97	Flexible funding models/brokerage funding
Increasing access to healthcare and specialist supports	53	Statewide model of care for forensic medical examinations
	54	Timely access to health responses to sexual violence
	55	Enable midwives to provide forensic medical examinations
	57	Screening for and responses to non-fatal strangulation
Dedicated supports for children and young people	48	Additional resources to the Child and Family Support System (CFSS)
	58	Publish the Child Protection Service model of care
	109	Review of Domestic and Family Violence Safety Alliance service delivery models for children and young people

Investing in services

Housing	23	Informing review of Alliance model
	102	Review and uplift Safe at Home
	103	Audit of crisis, emergency and transitional accommodation
	Action	Ring fencing additional properties
	Action	Increasing rent in advance
	Action	Waiving means testing within the Private Rental Assistance Program
	Action	Removing stamp duty for victims of DFSV
Services for people who use violence	73	Minimum standards for intervention programs
	75	Expansion of the Abuse Prevention Program
	87	Expansion of KIND program

Strengthening the police and justice system

SAPOL	5	SAPOL Service
	86	Pathways to report when person using violence is a police officer
Transforming legal frameworks and mechanisms	6	Coercive control working group
	69	Reinvigoration of National Personal Protection Injunction Working Group
	70	Consent and jury directions changes
	72	Review of use of character evidence
	96	Reporting victim impact statements
	123	Research on trials by judge alone
Reforming Intervention Orders	62	Time limited vacate order
	64	Explore strengthening s23(1a) of <i>Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009</i>
	65	Intervention orders application form changes to link parenting orders
	68	Rebuttable presumption for children on intervention orders
	71	Facilitation offence
Ensuring victim survivors are informed and protected	60	Support worker service in Family Violence Court
	61	Information about intervention orders
	114	Vulnerable witness suite
	118	Information sharing mechanism within Courts
	119	Reforms requiring prior notice of bail applications

Integrating responses

SA Framework for Evaluating Risk	14	Developing and implementing the South Australian Framework for Evaluating Risk (SAFER)
	16	Evaluating SAFER
Building a new integrated response model	18	Integrated response model
	19	Family Safety Framework
	21	Multi Agency Protection Service (MAPS)
Refining multi-agency responses	17	Framework for response to harmful sexual behaviours
	56	Cease charging for health responses to sexual violence
	107	Review and reduce homelessness mutual obligations
Establishing inclusive central entry points	32	Information websites
	46	Central entry point

Enhancing governance and leadership

A coordinated, connected and effective system	1	Standalone Ministerial portfolio
	2	Office of the Government Steward
	10	5-year statewide DFSV strategy and standalone Aboriginal strategy
Driving outcomes through commissioning	25	Commissioning principles
	26	Review of contracting arrangements
	106	Prioritise Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
Ensuring accountability	4	Implementation Plan
	7	Implementation and Impact Monitor
	9	CE Performance Agreements (implementation activities)
	13	CE Performance Agreements (Lived Experience Advisory Network engagement)

Developing a capable workforce

SAFER training	15	SAFER training
SAPOL	37	Ongoing DFSV training for all sworn officers and relevant staff members
	38	Intensive ongoing training for family violence investigators
	39	Regulation amendments to require report on training
Contemporary courts	40g	Training for prosecutors and investigators
	41	Judicial officers and court staff DFSV education and training
	42	Regulations for mandatory judicial education and training framework
	43	Appointment of judicial officers
	44	Appointment criteria for Senior Counsel
	66	Training on s68R of <i>Family Law Act 1975</i> (Cth)
Future-focussed development	67	Amend General Orders and Prosecution Practice Notes regarding the safety of children and their inclusion on intervention orders
	27	Workforce development strategy
	29	18th psychosocial risk
	30	Framework for colonial and cultural load in SA public sector

Building a learning system

Improved information and data sharing	3	Linked data dashboard
	20	Technological solution for whole-of-government records management and information sharing
Continuous learning	8	Support for Embolden
	11	Adult and children and young people Lived Experience Advisory Networks
	12	Lived Experience Advisory Group

Government Steward

The Office of DFSV within the Department of Human Services has been assigned the role of Government Steward. In accordance with recommendation 2 of the Royal Commission, its primary function is to steer the vast range of stakeholders within the DFSV ecosystem towards the shared vision. With this comes accountability and dedication to long-term system transformation and better outcomes for people.

Many agencies, one vision

The Royal Commission's recommendations seek to address a host of interconnected issues and opportunities that, when implemented collectively, lead us towards a safer future.

The scale and complexity of the response implementation requires a whole-of-government approach, with agencies leading work aligned to their expertise. Many recommendations span multiple systems and sectors, creating significant interdependencies. To ensure implementation remains coordinated and focused across the reform agenda, a system steward is essential.

A mechanism for collaborative leadership

At its heart, stewardship is about guiding everyone involved in the system towards better quality services and better long term outcomes. It understands that a system is made up of people, relationships and shared goals, and that each part of the system has a role in improving outcomes.

Government stewardship is the foundation of enhancing governance and leadership.

The Office of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

In addition to its role as Government Steward, the Office of DFSV has responsibility for implementing 26 recommendations, including:

- Development of a 5-year **statewide DFSV strategy** and a standalone 5-year **Aboriginal DFSV strategy** to guide collective efforts across systems and identify how these efforts contribute towards outcomes.
- Establishment of **lived experience advisory mechanisms**.
- Growth of collective evidence-informed practice through the development of **South Australia's Framework for Evaluating Risk (SAFER)**: a shared risk screening and risk assessment framework, practice tools, training and implementation support processes.
- Creation of **help-seeking pathways**: new ways for people to find the help when they need it. This includes the establishment of a new website and a central entry point for support, response and information.
- Establishment of a new **Integrated Response Model**: providing new ways for multiple agencies to work together to provide more immediate, holistic responses.
- **Commissioning or recommissioning** of state government-funded services within the DFSV sector.
- Development of **a linked data-dashboard** to monitor reform impact across the system.
- Leading **primary prevention** initiatives, including piloting a community primary prevention model and statewide community awareness campaigns.

South Australia Police

South Australia Police (SAPOL) is committed to reducing the prevalence of DFSV in our community and the harm caused to victim survivors and their families.

In accordance with recommendation 5 of the Royal Commission and further contributing to collaborative, system-wide leadership, SAPOL has elevated the DFSV portfolio from section to Service level.

A Service is the top-level of organisation within SAPOL, led by a dedicated Assistant Commissioner. This reflects the priority DFSV requires, and the complexity of investigating and prosecuting this violence.

SAPOL's implementation of Royal Commission recommendations will be led from the newly created DFSV Service. This Service is responsible for:

- Governance and policy capabilities to support the adoption of recommendations, the criminalisation of coercive control, and to ensure ongoing best practice.
- A training capability able to co-design and deliver an uplift in ongoing, evidence-based organisational training.
- An enhanced investigative capability for complex DFSV.
- A statewide DFSV intelligence capability.
- A quality assurance capability.
- A liaison or accessibility capability focused on improving responses to priority population groups experiencing DFSV.

Lived experience

Amplify lived experience voices

The Government of South Australia is unequivocally committed to placing lived experience voices at the centre of its Royal Commission response implementation. Victim-survivor voices must be visible, influential, and central to the future system in South Australia.

The Office of DFSV leads this work by coordinating advisory mechanisms that actively elevate and amplify lived experience advice.

The Adult Lived Experience Advisory Network (LEAN), delivered by Embolden, is already demonstrating impact. With several hundred members, it is sharing collective insights that are shaping both government and sector understanding of how the implementation of recommendations can best support victim-survivors.

Embed lived experience voices

Embedding lived experience into policy, programs, and services is essential to achieving meaningful reform.

In line with Royal Commission recommendations 8, 11 and 12, South Australia is establishing strong lived experience advisory mechanisms, including two Lived Experience Advisory Networks (adults and children and young people) and a Lived Experience Advisory Group.

The Children and Young People LEAN will provide a safe and structured platform for children and young people to influence system design and improvement. Through co-design, it will ensure services are relevant, responsive, and grounded in lived experience.

This approach gives effect to the Royal Commission's clear direction: children and young people must be recognised as victim-survivors in their own right and their voices must shape reform outcomes.

The Children and Young People LEAN is expected to be operational by late 2026, positioning South Australia as a leader in this space.

“You can get failed by your mum and dad, and you can get failed by systems... We need the government and people just to realise... they can do this... most kids don't get heard and listened to.”

Ivy, 16-year-old female, First Nations, experienced violence from age 3, *Silence and Inaction Report*

Turning voices into action

Lived experience expertise is essential to ensuring services meet the needs of children, young people and adults harmed by DFSV.

The Lived Experience Advisory Group will provide direct advice to the Minister, ensuring lived experience informs high-level decision-making. Establishment is well advanced, with its first meeting expected by September and substantive work commencing in late 2026.

Work with Embolden and the Adult LEAN will continue to strengthen how lived experience insights translate into practical system and service improvements.

Aboriginal engagement

Aboriginal communities were valued partners in the development of the Royal Commission. With a strong commitment to incorporating the views and experiences of Aboriginal communities in forming recommendations, the Royal Commission's Aboriginal Partnership Committee ensured that recommendations regarding service delivery to Aboriginal people and communities were made in partnership, with equal participation and shared decision-making.

The Royal Commission emphasised the importance of government keeping this partnership going. *Building Safer Futures* recognised the role that Aboriginal people played in the development of the Royal Commission's report, and the role that they will continue to play in the implementation and cultural governance of *Building Safer Futures*.

In keeping with the Royal Commission's approach, the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network (SAACCON) has been engaged to determine how and where Aboriginal engagement can have maximum impact within the implementation process and to co-design the specific engagement mechanisms.

Through partnership with SAACCON, we will work to ensure that implementation of *Building Safer Futures* occurs in accordance with the Closing the Gap priority reforms, and that DFSV system reform translates into tangible benefits for Aboriginal communities. In this, we will have regard to work already underway through the South Australian Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and the subcommittees established under the South Australian Partnership Agreement.

As a first step, the Women and Families Safety Partnership Committee (established under Closing the Gap governance arrangements and co-Chaired by a SAACCON member) will oversee development of a standalone Aboriginal DFSV strategy in response to recommendation 10 of the Royal Commission. The Women and Families Safety Partnership Committee has been established to provide strategic advice on matters related to improving outcomes for Aboriginal women and families in South Australia in line with Target 13 under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and particularly the rates at which South Australian Aboriginal women and children experience all forms of family violence and abuse.

In addition, working groups have been established focusing on key elements of DFSV system reform, including integrated responses, workforce capability, data and learning systems, and strengthening policing and justice. These include representation from relevant Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, many of whom are also represented on the Women and Families Safety Partnership Committee.

Agencies will also continue to work within their own cultural governance structures in developing implementation approaches for individual recommendations, including engagement with SAACCON and the First Nations Voice to Parliament where appropriate, such as on legislative matters.

Dedicated focus on children and young people

A fundamental shift

The Royal Commission's recognition of children and young people as among the most impacted, yet least supported in relation to DFSV led to the publication of the *Silence and Inaction* report, drawing on the experiences of 53 children and young people (aged 13-18) with lived experience of DFSV.

The report highlights the grave and enduring ways children and young people living in South Australia are being systematically failed. It called for a fundamental shift, which can only be achieved by putting children and young people at the centre of the future DFSV system.

Centring children and young people

The Royal Commission was clear that children and young people must be recognised as experiencing DFSV in their own right.

For the DFSV system to truly meet their needs, children and young people urgently require us to:

- Centre their voices in system design, policy-making, and reform efforts.
- Design and shift practice to ensure they are seen, cared for and responded to as a priority.
- Design accessible help-seeking pathways and services that meet their needs.
- Design appropriate assessment processes.

“I believe we have a whole lot of young people out there, like me, who are facing challenges, but they don't really know where to seek help... So, I feel a whole lot could be done.”

**Scott, 18-year-old male,
experienced violence from age 14,
Silence and Inaction Report**

Investing in services

Two new services will be launched to ensure that children and young people who experience DFSV – either within their families or their own intimate relationships – receive a service response in their own right. Alongside this, multiple existing programs and services will be extended to ensure these supports for children and young people continue across prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery and healing.

A system that meets their needs

A dedicated focus on children and young people is embedded throughout all major system components, including integrated response models, SAFER, the development of new help-seeking pathways, Harmful Sexual Behaviours Framework, and prevention efforts.

Breaking silence

Children and young people will be heard, listened to, and partnered with through the Children and Young People Lived Experience Advisory Network to influence system design and improvement.

How we will monitor progress

Monitoring and evaluation of the whole-of-government response to the Royal Commission will include three separate but related activities:

- Tracking implementation activities.
- Assessing the progress towards, and achievement of, intended outcomes.
- Independent oversight of implementation and impact to support accountability.

Tracking implementation

Each recommendation has been assigned to a lead government agency for delivery.

A regular milestone monitoring process will occur within government to track progress of individual recommendations, which will be reported publicly in the *Building Safer Futures Annual Report*.

Assessing outcomes: the SA DFSV Outcomes Framework

Beyond monitoring progress towards the achievement of individual recommendations, recommendation 4 of the Royal Commission called for an implementation plan that is ‘outcomes-focused, rather than activity-focused.’

Outcomes describe the change we want to see. All actions outlined in this Implementation Plan have therefore been developed in service to one or more of the following four aspirational high-level outcomes:

- **People** are safe, supported and well (individual and interpersonal level outcomes).
- **Workforces and practice** are responsive and capable (practice and workforce level outcomes).
- **Systems** that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective (systems level outcomes).
- **South Australia** is safe and free from domestic, family and sexual violence (population level outcomes).

Alongside the Implementation Plan and the Statewide DFSV Strategies, the Government of South Australia will release a DFSV Outcomes Framework. This will detail how we will begin to measure progress towards these high-level outcomes.

The Outcomes Framework will be designed based on broader consultation with the DFSV sector, lived experience, and cultural advice.

It will be an iterative document, reflecting that, as we collect better data, our understanding of progress towards outcomes is likely to evolve, as is our capability to define new measures for success.

Future releases of the Outcomes Framework will reflect these evolutions. The work of establishing, implementing, and revising the measurement of outcomes over time is supported by the actions outlined in this Implementation Plan under the DFSV Learning System.

Agencies will contribute to data collection and measurement, supported and guided by the Office of DFSV, who will draw together available indicators for the *Building Safer Futures Annual Report*.

Independent oversight

An Independent Impact Assessment Panel will be established in late 2026 to review implementation progress and consider the longer-term impact of work undertaken under this Implementation Plan.

Members of the Panel will have skills and expertise across a range of areas, including policing and justice, sexual violence, children and young people, academia and Aboriginal communities.

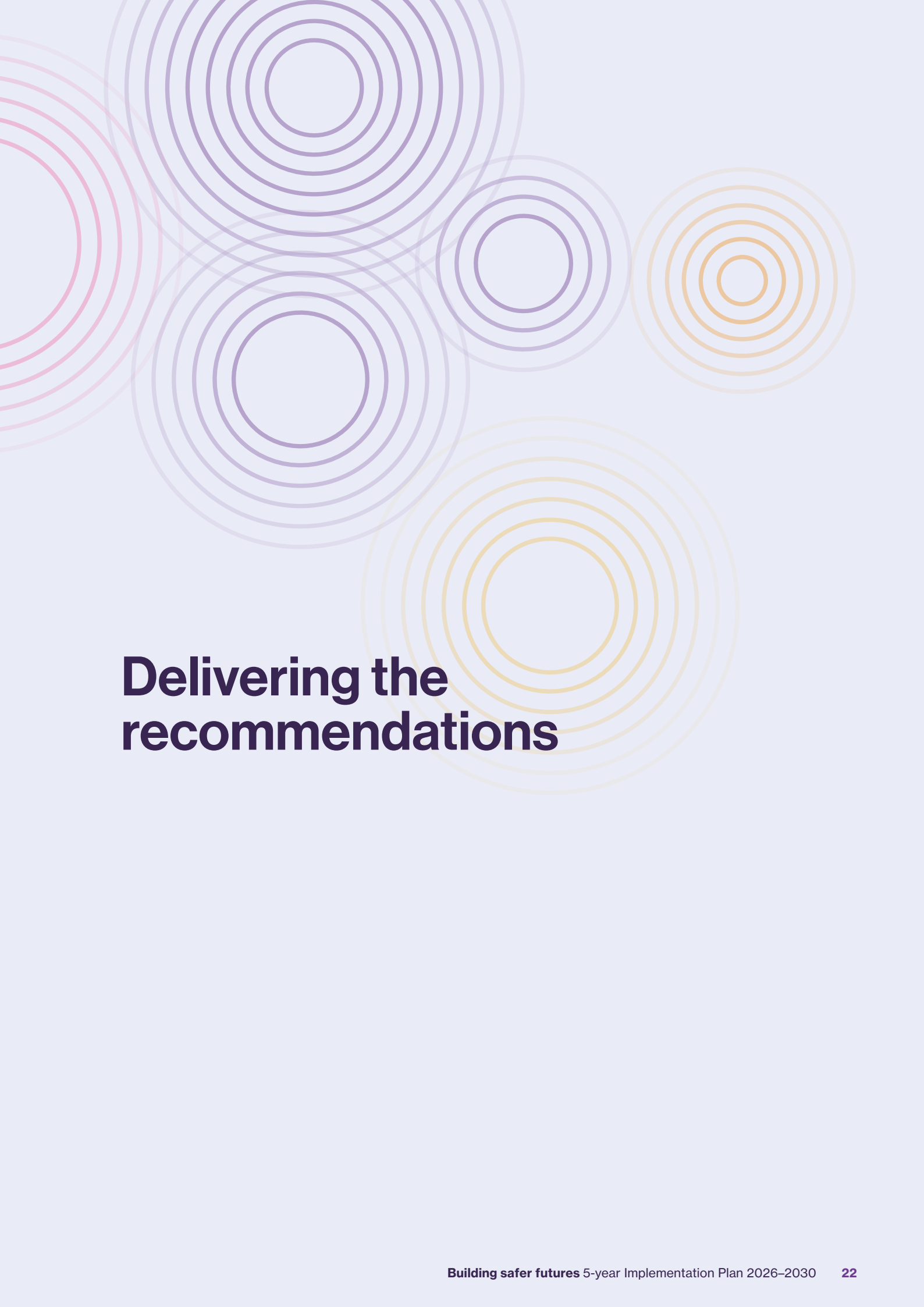
The Panel will access a range of system data and reporting, including implementation planning, activity and milestone monitoring, annual reporting and the DFSV linked-data dashboard (once established). The Panel may also seek additional information and consult across implementation agencies, the sector and other relevant bodies to assess implementation progress, system design and development, and the achievement of outcomes and impact at different levels over time.

The Independent Impact Assessment Panel will also engage with the ongoing development of the Outcomes Framework and baseline measurement.

Building Safer Futures Annual Report

The first *Building Safer Futures Annual Report* will be released in 2027. Initially evaluating implementation progress, the annual report will expand over time to include markers of system reform and outcome achievement as the reform progress matures.

The Independent Impact Assessment Panel will provide implementation and impact assessment commentary alongside the annual report.



Delivering the recommendations

Actively preventing violence



Strengthening community awareness to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence and addressing systems abuse

The Royal Commission was clear that ending violence requires collective responsibility and coordinated action. While every South Australian has a role to play in preventing DFSV, governments and a range of sectors have a duty to lead systemic change.

Important opportunities to build greater awareness and understanding of DFSV across the public sector, the community, in schools and in higher education have been identified. Where taken up, these will challenge the behaviours, attitudes and structural conditions that have allowed DFSV to persist. Awareness campaigns will complement community-based primary prevention pilot programs, which will work with communities to embed engagement and awareness at the community level.

A focus on the prevention of DFSV will be wide-ranging across communities and systems, with work at both a State and Federal level to provide safe online spaces, put in place up-to-date frameworks to prevent violence, minimise risk factors for the use of violence, and stop the use of systems to perpetrate further harm.

Extending beyond the Royal Commission's recommendations, the Government of South Australia has taken action to instigate the national social media ban for children under 16 years of age. This reform is now being adopted internationally and is an example of our ambition for tangible reform to technology-facilitated harm.

Further supporting this age restriction is the Government of South Australia's investment in the 'Wait Mate' program, which aims to postpone smartphone availability.

The Government of South Australia has also committed to banning DFSV offenders from online dating for up to 10 years.

Early actions

- Commenced discussion paper on SA anti-discrimination and anti-vilification frameworks.
- Advocated to the Australian Government on system audits, media standards and e-safety actions.
- Preparation for community awareness campaign and community-based primary prevention pilot programs.

Strengthening community awareness

A multi-year community awareness campaign will be developed and rolled out, with an initial focus on drivers of DFSV, with later campaigns including awareness of types of violence including coercive control. This will be reinforced by two community-based primary prevention pilot programs.

Work will also be undertaken to progress reforms to the national relationships and sexuality education curriculum in schools. Promoting the delivery of a skill set targeted to DFSV awareness, identification and response through universities, the vocational education and training (VET) sector and the public service will further build the community's overall capability.

South Australia will continue to advocate for the development of a legally binding and enforceable national standard for responsible media reporting of DFSV.

Outcomes focus

South Australia is safe and free from domestic, family and sexual violence

People are safe, supported and well

Key activities

- 2026**
- Community selection for primary prevention pilot programs
 - Advocacy to universities and VET sector on qualification content

- 2027**
- First community awareness campaign
 - National curriculum negotiations with Australian Education Senior Officials Committee
 - Community primary prevention pilots commence

Recommendations

31 35 36 95 124 126 127

Led by: Office of DFSV; Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment; Department of State Development; Department for Education

Addressing systems abuse

The Government of South Australia will advocate for progress on audits of key Commonwealth systems and audit South Australian systems to identify any potential avenues for systems abuse and safety breaches. The requirements for consumer protections within the *Residential Tenancies Act 1995* (SA) and the *Essential Services Commission Act 2022* (SA) will also be strengthened to support DFSV victim-survivors.

A discussion paper reviewing South Australia's anti-discrimination and anti-vilification frameworks will be produced in consultation with the Lived Experience Advisory Networks and released for wide public consultation, seeking community feedback on options for reform. Preferred reform options will be identified and evaluated for future legislative action.

Outcomes focus

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

South Australia is safe and free from domestic, family and sexual violence

Key activities

- 2026**
- Discussion paper released on SA anti-discrimination and anti-vilification frameworks
 - Regulations made to empower ESCOSA to require providers to implement consumer protections

- 2027**
- Research and audit on potential for SA systems abuse/safety breaches completed

Recommendations

92 93 94 110 136

Led by: Department of Treasury and Finance; Office of DFSV; Consumer and Business Services; Attorney-General's Department

Harm minimisation and alcohol supply

A Bill amending the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997* (SA) will be introduced to Parliament. This amendment Bill will address alcohol-related harm and regulate the same-day delivery of alcohol in South Australia by:

- Amending the long title of the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997* so that it refers to minimising harm and the potential for harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate use of liquor.
- Inserting a minimum mandatory 2-hour 'safety pause' between the time that the order of alcohol is placed and the time of delivery.
- Restricting the same day delivery of alcohol to between the hours of 10am and 10pm.
- Replacing the term 'domestic violence in the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997* with 'domestic, family and sexual violence'.

To disrupt the supply of alcohol into dry Aboriginal communities, community-endorsed disruption plans will be put in place in priority locations. Intelligence-led operations will disrupt trafficking routes and repeat offenders.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well

Key activities

- 2026**
- Stakeholder engagement regarding disruption plans
 - Amendment Bill introduced to Parliament

Recommendations

128 129 130 131

Led by: Consumer and Business Services; SAPOL

Safer online spaces

Seeking safer, more positive online experiences, the Government of South Australia is advocating for continued resourcing and support of the eSafety Commissioner by the Commonwealth.

The Government of South Australia will continue to work with the Australian Government on reforms to address digital harms and will support wherever possible the eSafety Commissioner's ongoing monitoring and evaluation of online and technology-facilitated harms experienced by children and young people, specifically considering harm minimisation approaches.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well

Key activities

- 2026**
- Advocacy correspondence sent to the Australian Government (complete)

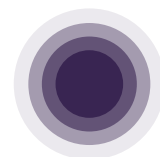
Recommendations

134 135

Led by: Department of the Premier and Cabinet

DELIVERING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Investing in services



Increasing the accessibility and capacity of services across prevention, early intervention and response

Greater awareness of DFSV and help-seeking pathways demands an increased capacity in services that prevent, intervene early and respond to people experiencing and using violence. Initial investment has been made to ensure ongoing service availability and sustainability, and further uplift will be delivered.

The inclusion of flexible funding for services to support the provision of individual support and safety packages will increase the safety, accessibility, and ability of services to meet the specific needs of the individual seeking help.

Integrated response teams (detailed under 'integrating responses') are a key new service that will come online in 2028, providing additional crisis response through short-term safety interventions delivered by multidisciplinary staff.

The expansion of services for children and young people has been prioritised in our response, with additional services for children experiencing violence in their families and new support for young people experiencing and/or using DFSV within their own relationships.

Additional funding will also be directed into Youth Justice to provide increased responses to young men using violence, and the Abuse Prevention Program and associated partner contact programs will be expanded to widen the eligibility for people using violence, including women and LGBTIQ+ people. Minimum standards will be established for intervention and behaviour change programs to ensure that they are evidence-based, trauma-informed, inclusive and culturally safe.

Increased investment in health responses to sexual violence will ensure that victim-survivors receive necessary, adequate and timely health responses across the state.

A range of housing responses will also be funded to support victim-survivors to remain in their own home safely as well as the housing needs of victim-survivors leaving their home due to DFSV. Many of these responses extend beyond the Royal Commission's recommendations to enhance existing programs and services, while related State Government commitments include:

- \$110 million to build and operate 200 supported accommodation places for people who require additional wrap-around supports. DFV victim-survivors will be a priority group for up to 50 of these placements, which are intended to be a permanent, stable, and supported housing option.
- More than \$20 million towards the New Generation Catherine House project, which will deliver 52 new social housing apartments within Adelaide's CBD. These new places will support women experiencing homelessness, domestic violence and those living with disability.

The Federal Government's 'National Housing Infrastructure Facility – Crisis and Transitional' program is developing eight transitional and 10 crisis accommodation units in partnership with community housing providers. These 18 units will have a DFV focus, with 10 being for First-Nations victim-survivors of DFV.

Early actions

- The Homelessness System Review has been informed by the Royal Commission findings.
- Contract variations have been executed to extend and uplift (where allocated) existing services that were ending on 30 June 2026, ensuring their ongoing availability.
- Increased investment has been made in the Safe at Home program, providing safety upgrades that enable women to remain safely in their home.
- An additional 45 public housing properties have been ring-fenced for those experiencing domestic abuse.
- Stamp-duty relief is available for victim-survivors.
- Means testing to access the Private Rental Assistance program has been waived for DFSV victim-survivors, ensuring that more people can access alternative accommodation when needed.
- Recruitment process underway for additional Senior Case Manager to reduce wait times for Abuse Prevention Program assessments.
- Procurement underway for interim service model to deliver flexible Individual Safety and Support packages.

Increasing capacity

A range of existing DFSV services will receive longer-term funding to support workforce stability, long-term safety planning and community trust. Funding uplifts have also been provided to increase service sustainability.

A flexible funding model is being developed, focused on making individual safety and support packages accessible for priority populations who have previously been excluded or limited from being able to access supports. This flexible funding can be used for practical supports tailored to an individual's circumstances.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well

Workforces and practice are responsive and capable

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
- Contract variations executed to extend existing services ending on 30 June 2026 (complete)
 - Individual safety and support packages available (interim model)

- 2027 – 2028**
- Contract extensions and additional funding (where allocated) for services ending on 30 June 2027

- 2028**
- Individual safety and support packages available through central entry point (ongoing model)

Recommendations

24b

97

Led by: Office of DFSV

Increasing access to healthcare and specialist supports

SA Health will develop and implement a model of care that will:

- standardise forensic medical examinations across the state
- improve regional service access through a staged roll-out of training, physical infrastructure and improved telehealth support
- strengthen the ability of clinicians to identify and respond to non-fatal strangulation.

Regional clinicians will be trained, supported and confident to provide forensic medical examinations so that victim-survivors can access care closer to home or through rapid supported transfer to a metropolitan hub when required.

The number of staff able to provide these services will be increased by seeking to include registered midwives in the *Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Regulations 2022* as able to conduct forensic medical examinations.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well

Workforces and practice are responsive and capable

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
- Targeted consultation on proposed changes to *Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Regulations 2022*

- 2027**
- Forensic medical examination model of care approved
 - Regional forensic medical examination trial starts

- 2028**
- Expansion of regional forensic medical examination service availability

Recommendations

53

54

55

57

Led by: SA Health; Attorney-General's Department

Dedicated support for children and young people

Investment in a statewide service expansion of the Child and Family Support System (CFSS) will provide additional whole-of-family responses for children experiencing DFSV within their families and a new service targeted at young people experiencing and/or using DFSV in their own relationships. The design of these services will be informed by a review of current service delivery models providing children and young people experiencing DFSV with a response in their own right.

The SA Health Child Protection Service model of care will be published online, along with timeframes for implementation.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
- Expansion of CFSS support for children in families experiencing DFSV
 - Child Protection Service model of care published

- 2027**
- New service commences for young people experiencing and/or using DFSV in their own relationships
 - Further evidence-informed expansion of CFSS supports

Recommendations

48

58

109

Led by: Department of Human Services; SA Health

Housing

The Homelessness System Review including review of the Alliance Model has been informed by the Royal Commission's findings. The result of this review, alongside an SA Housing Trust (SAHT) review of crisis and transitional accommodation, will determine if further auditing is needed to accurately capture and record the key characteristics of available accommodation.

More funding has been provided to the Safe at Home program to provide additional safety planning, home safety audits and upgrades for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing domestic or family violence.

Housing solutions that address the range of accommodation scenarios experienced by DFSV victim survivors have been supported:

- 45 additional public housing properties fitted with appropriate security features have been included in SAHT's 'DFV Fenced' initiative, available only to customers who have been affected by domestic abuse.
- Means testing to access the Private Rental Assistance program has been waived for DFSV victim-survivors.
- DFV Safety Alliance- and Homelessness Alliance-referred customers will be able to receive up to six weeks rent in advance when transitioning from short-term accommodation into private rental housing.
- A scheme has been established to enable victim-survivors to apply for stamp duty relief on new or established homes and vacant land, and requalify for the First Home Owner Grant.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
- Stamp duty relief applications open (complete)
 - 45 additional SAHT properties quarantined for people experiencing DFV (complete)
 - Funding to Safe at Home increased (complete)
 - Private Rental Assistance program rent in advance increased to six weeks

Recommendations

23 102 103

Led by: Department of Human Services; SA Housing Trust; Department of Treasury and Finance

Services for people who use violence

A set of minimum standards will be developed and implemented to ensure that government-funded intervention and behaviour change programs are evidence-based, trauma-informed and culturally safe. An ongoing review process will keep them current.

The existing Abuse Prevention Program and associated partner contact programs will be scaled up and expanded to include interventions for women and LGBTQIA+ people using violence. Alternative pathways into new prevention programs from outside of the justice system will also be piloted.

The Youth Justice intervention program KIND will receive additional pilot funding to reduce the current waitlist and provide increased responses addressing perpetrator behaviour in young men.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well
Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

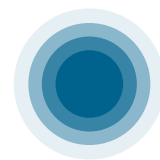
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2026 | • Reduced waiting times for Abuse Prevention Program assessment |
| 2027 | • Increased statewide capacity within the Abuse Prevention Program available
• Additional practitioners recruited to KIND
• Minimum standards for intervention programs finalised |
| 2028 | • Pilot of alternative pathways into prevention programs commences |

Recommendations

73 75 87

Led by: Department for Correctional Services; Department of Human Services; Office of DFSV; Courts Administration Authority

Strengthening the police and justice system



Ensuring victim-survivors are informed and protected; keeping people using violence visible and accountable

The safety and wellbeing of victim-survivors is central to South Australia's response to DFSV. This is particularly important in the criminal justice and intervention orders systems which provide critical safety and accountability mechanisms.

Ensuring that these systems can effectively recognise and manage risk, and are trauma informed and culturally safe, requires a greater focus on both how victim-survivors navigate and understand these systems and how people who use violence can be held accountable for their behaviour.

Legislative and policy changes will transform our legal frameworks and mechanisms, and reform intervention orders, to deliver greater safety and accountability. This will be integrated with changes to how DFSV risk is assessed and managed and the development of comprehensive and ongoing education and training for police and those working within the justice system on the nature and impacts of DFSV.

To further enhance the safety and effectiveness of police and justice systems, the government is also investing in the Courts to ensure that victim-survivors are informed and empowered participants in the justice system through a new vulnerable witness suite, support workers and access to up-to-date court information.

Informed by the Royal Commission's recommendations, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has also established a new dedicated DFSV team, to develop a deeper expertise in DFSV matters, adopting trauma-informed practices and approaches to building the best case.

Early actions

- Initial establishment of SAPOL Service, led by a dedicated Assistant Commissioner to lift the capacity, capability and focus on DFSV within SAPOL.
- Early consideration of reforms to the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009*.
- Design and site selection for vulnerable witness suite commenced.

South Australia Police

A SAPOL Service has been established, and will be expanded over the coming five years to provide centralised leadership, governance and specialist capability for DFSV policing. Statewide investigative capacity will be increased with additional family violence investigator positions, and the Service will lead improved training, a statewide DFSV intelligence function and quality assurance activities.

SAPOL's Ethical and Professional Standards Branch will review reporting pathways and responses when the alleged person using violence is a police officer. This will create new separate reporting pathways, strengthen confidentiality and conflict-of-interest safeguards, clarify allocation of investigations and intervention order applications independent of local command, and improve transparency.

Outcomes focus

Workforces and practice are responsive and capable

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
 - SAPOL's reporting pathway and response review complete
 - DFSV Service established within SAPOL
- 2027**
 - Uplift of the Family and Domestic Violence Section to Branch level within Service
 - Uplift in Service policy and training capacity
- 2028**
 - Establishment of complex investigations and statewide intelligence model capabilities within Service

Recommendations

5

86

Led by: SAPOL

Transforming legal frameworks and mechanisms

Amendments to the definition of consent and the broadening of jury directions will help to address common myths and misconceptions about DFSV.

A greater focus on victim-survivors in the criminal justice system will be supported by:

- reviewing how good character evidence is used during sentencing and at trial
- research on the eligibility for and limitations around judge-alone trials
- research on changes to the *Victims of Crime Act 2001* (SA) regarding how Victim Impact Statements can be reported on or published.

The Attorney-General will advocate for continued work on federal family violence orders through the Standing Council of Attorneys-General.

A working group will be established to support implementation of the coercive control offence.

Outcomes focus

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
 - Review on use of character evidence undertaken
 - Consultation on amendments to *Victims of Crime Act 2001*
 - Coercive control working group convened
- 2027**
 - Targeted consultation on any draft Bills to amend the definition of consent and broaden jury directions
 - Introduction of any amendment Bills to Parliament

Recommendations

6

69

70

72

96

123

Led by: Attorney-General's Department

Reforming intervention orders

The effectiveness of intervention orders will be enhanced by amendments that provide greater safety for children and the protective parent.

A rebuttable presumption that children should be included on intervention orders will be included in the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009*. This will be supported by a new facilitation offence to stop third parties from committing acts of abuse against victim-survivors on behalf of the person using violence and greater awareness and use of section 68R of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) to vary parenting orders where they are inconsistent with intervention orders.

Amendments to allow police to issue a short term vacate order will be the subject of consultation. Such orders can serve as a circuit breaker, giving immediate safety to the victim-survivor and time for a more permanent decision to be made by the Court.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well
Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026** • Consult on Bill to amend the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009*
- 2027** • Bill to amend the *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009* introduced to Parliament

Recommendations

62 64 65 68 71

Led by: Attorney-General's Department

Ensuring victim survivors are informed and protected

An online portal will be established to allow victim-survivors to easily find accurate and timely information about their court matter. This will commence with Courts data only.

A vulnerable witness suite will be developed in a non-court building within metropolitan Adelaide to support victim-survivors to testify and interact with the justice system without confronting the accused. A specialist trained workforce will support victim-survivors when using the facility.

Consultation will take place on reforms that would require prior written notice of all bail applications.

A safe, trauma-informed central telephone support worker service will commence in the Magistrates Court, providing non-legal advice and support to parties to an intervention order, connected to Family Violence Court hearings. The clarity, consistency and accessibility of information provided to people about the terms and effect of an intervention order will also be improved.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well
Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2027** • Launch of online portal for victim-survivors to access Court data
• Consultation on reforms requiring prior written notice of bail applications

- 2028** • Vulnerable witness suites available

- 2029** • Support worker service commences in Family Violence Courts

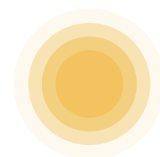
Recommendations

60 61 114 118 119

Led by: Courts Administration Authority;
Attorney-General's Department

DELIVERING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Integrating responses



Improving information sharing and system-wide coordination to make it easier for people to seek help and for timely, safe and appropriate support to be provided

Cohesive and effective systems are integral to achieving the vision of a South Australia that is safe and free from violence. The government has invested in foundational system reform elements that will be scaled and implemented over time.

Developing and implementing the South Australian Framework for Evaluating Risk (SAFER) will provide opportunities to better identify and respond earlier to risk, and to establish clear and inclusive pathways to safety and desistance.

The government has committed to building a new integrated response model connected to the Family Safety Framework – refining multi-agency responses to improve information sharing, coordination and outcomes for those at highest risk. Integrated response teams will take an across-systems, risk-informed approach to people experiencing violence and those most at risk, including children and young people, creating an immediate and accessible response to families at risk.

Multi-agency responses will also be extended to responses to sexual violence. A statewide Harmful Sexual Behaviours Framework will be developed to identify and respond early to children and young people displaying harmful sexual behaviours, and sexual violence healthcare will be provided to victim-survivors without access to Medicare free of charge.

A new website will be launched to support people seeking information and help on DFSV and will link to an inclusive and accessible 24/7 central entry point crisis and information support line.

Early actions

- Review of existing risk assessment frameworks and evaluations to inform SAFER underway.
- Transition planning for interagency resourcing to support statewide integrated response model commenced.
- Funding uplift to the Domestic Violence Crisis Line provided.
- SA Ambulance Service fee waiver in place to inform fee-free sexual violence healthcare for people without access to Medicare.
- Homelessness mutual obligations have been waived for 21 days for clients referred by DFV services.

Developing the SA Framework for Evaluating Risk (SAFER)

A new evidence-based and future-focused risk assessment and management framework will be built, to better meet the needs of South Australians who experience DFSV, including children and young people.

SAFER will be used by specialist services, and those providing direct services to clients – including the Child and Family Support System, child protection services and SAPOL – to identify and manage risk and provide referrals to support services as appropriate.

SAFER will be evaluated after 3-5 years of operation.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well

Workforces and practice are responsive and capable

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

2027 • Draft framework, tools and practice guidance developed

2028 • Commence SAFER implementation

2030 • SAFER evaluation parameters developed

Recommendations

14 16

Led by: Office of DFSV

Building a new integrated response model

Multidisciplinary integrated response teams will be formed across the state. They will meet daily in local sites to assess and share information about families at risk and determine immediate priorities and actions. The teams will assess if risks can be immediately mitigated or if further intensive support is required.

If further support is required, the integrated response teams will assertively engage individuals within the family – victim-survivors, children and young people and people identified as using violence. They will provide risk assessment and safety management, as well as directly connecting families with longer-term case management, non-mandated abuse prevention programs and relevant universal supports.

Integrated response teams will also leverage resources currently embedded within the Multi Agency Protection Service.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well

Workforces and practice are responsive and capable

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

2027 • Design of integrated response teams service model and practice guidance

2028 • First three integrated response teams operational

2029 • Remaining integrated response teams commence

Recommendations

18 19 21

Led by: Office of DFSV, SAPOL

Establishing inclusive central entry points

A new website will be launched, consolidating information about the nature and impact of DFSV and the support services and systems that are available. This information will be accessible, evidence-based and updated regularly.

The website will also link to a new inclusive and accessible central entry point. Operating as a 24/7 phone and digital support line, any South Australian experiencing or using DFSV will be able to receive advice and support from staff trained in trauma-informed care and risk assessment and management.

Increased funding will maintain the current Domestic Violence Crisis Line while the new central entry point is developed.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well
Workforces and practice are responsive and capable
Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
 - Funding increase for Domestic Violence Crisis Line (complete)
 - LEAN engagement to inform information website content (complete)
- 2027**
 - Website launch
 - Co-design and development of central entry point model
- 2028**
 - Implementation of central entry point

Recommendations

32 46

Led by: Office of DFSV

Refining multi-agency responses

A South Australian Harmful Sexual Behaviours Framework will be delivered, providing system-level guidance to support consistent, coordinated and evidence-based responses to harmful sexual behaviours in children and young people across government and relevant sectors.

Victim-survivors without access to Medicare will receive all sexual violence healthcare (health assessments, forensic medical examinations and 'just in case' examinations) free of charge. SA Health and SA Ambulance Service billing procedures will be updated and applied consistently.

Homelessness mutual obligations have been waived for 21 days for clients referred to the SA Housing Trust's Emergency Accommodation Program by specialist domestic and family violence support services.

Outcomes focus

People are safe, supported and well
Workforces and practice are responsive and capable
Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
 - Fee-waiver trial developed and implemented for sexual violence-related healthcare for people without access to Medicare
- 2027**
 - Consultation on draft Harmful Sexual Behaviours Framework
 - Changes to fee policies for ongoing fee-free access to sexual violence healthcare for people without access to Medicare finalised
- 2028**
 - Harmful Sexual Behaviours Framework finalised, published and promoted

Recommendations

17 56 107

Led by: Department for Child Protection; SA Health; SA Housing Trust

Enhancing governance and leadership



Building and leading a coordinated, connected, effective and accountable system

The Royal Commission highlighted that for the DFSV system to have enduring impact in South Australia, there must be long-term cross-government leadership, collective responsibility and shared accountability.

Government leadership, through the establishment of a standalone Ministerial portfolio is a key foundation of ongoing system reform.

Reflecting DFSV violence as a whole-of-government priority in Chief Executive performance agreements, with specific performance indicators linked to implementation activities and lived experience engagement, will continue to drive cross-government leadership and accountability.

A dedicated Office of DFSV (acting as the Government Steward) will maintain a holistic view of the entire landscape of reform activity, focusing on service system leadership and coordination across government, the sector and community. The Office of DFSV will develop a 5-year statewide DFSV strategy and guide the system from the current fragmented approach to one that is integrated, purpose-driven and accountable for outcomes.

A dedicated 5-year Aboriginal strategy and a review of commissioning practices will ensure service delivery by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) is prioritised, and that implementation and system leadership occurs in accordance with the government's commitment to the Closing the Gap priority reforms.

The Government of South Australia will ensure robust ongoing monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment, reported publicly in annual progress reports.

This will be supported by the establishment of an Independent Impact Assessment Panel that will assess implementation progress and impacts and provide commentary that will be published alongside the annual progress report.

Early actions

- Standalone Ministerial portfolio established.
- Office of DFSV established as the Government Steward.
- Changes to Chief Executive performance agreements to embed DFSV as a whole-of-government priority.
- Relevant Chief Executives briefed regarding required updates to their performance agreements.
- Early work to develop 5-year statewide and Aboriginal DFSV strategies is underway.
- A review of commissioning practices and a contract audit have commenced.

A coordinated, connected and effective system

The Government of South Australia has established a standalone Ministerial portfolio for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, providing dedicated, focused leadership to drive system-wide change.

The Office of DFSV within the Department of Human Services has been assigned the role of Government Steward. Initially focused on the delivery of the response to the Royal Commission, the capacity of the Office of DFSV will build over time to provide critical leadership and guidance in the longer-term design, build and delivery of a responsive and accountable system.

In support of this system design, the Office of DFSV is preparing two statewide strategies, including a standalone Aboriginal strategy. These will be developed in partnership with ACCOs and the non-government sector.

Outcomes focus

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2025 | • Standalone Ministerial portfolio established (complete) |
| 2026 | • Office of DFSV established as the Government Steward (complete)
• Commence development of statewide and Aboriginal DFSV strategies |
| 2027 | • Statewide and Aboriginal DFSV strategies released |

Recommendations

1 2 10

Led by: Office of DFSV

Driving outcomes through commissioning

A review of commissioning practices will inform the development and implementation of a commissioning framework that will align with the model principles recommended by the Royal Commission. The framework will include mechanisms to ensure the delivery of DFSV services by specialist ACCOs is prioritised in commissioning decisions. A contracting audit will inform removal of duplicate reporting and compliance obligations from future contracting arrangements.

Outcomes focus

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2027 | • Commissioning framework finalised and implemented |
|-------------|---|

Recommendations

25 26 106

Led by: Office of DFSV

Ensuring accountability

Independent assessment of progress under this Implementation Plan will be achieved through the establishment of an Independent Impact Assessment Panel in late 2026.

The Independent Impact Assessment Panel will annually assess implementation progress, system design and development, and impacts at different levels. The views of the independent panel will be published alongside the annual progress reports.

Changes to Chief Executive performance agreements have highlighted DFSV as a whole-of-government priority. Individual agreements will include both the DFSV response activities outlined in this Implementation Plan and Lived Experience Advisory Networks engagement strategies, which will be monitored through the annual performance review process.

Outcomes focus

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
- Implementation Plan released (complete)
 - Response activities included in Chief Executive performance agreements
 - Independent Impact Assessment Panel established

Recommendations

4

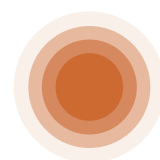
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Led by: Office of DFSV

Developing a capable workforce



Developing a capable and confident DFSV and trauma-informed workforce across systems and services

A workforce that recognises and understands DFSV, and can assess and manage risk, is an important component of a contemporary and trauma-informed DFSV system.

While specialist workforces will undertake training related to the specific application of the SAFER framework there is equally a need to make DFSV visible through greater awareness in the broader workforce and community, and for specialist training for those working in the justice sector.

Cultural change and systemic reform to create a DFSV system that is safe, accessible, trauma informed, and which meets the needs of victim-survivors requires a DFSV-informed workforce that is capable, competent, inclusive and culturally responsive.

This will start with comprehensive, evidence-based training for judges, police and prosecutors to equip them with the knowledge and skills to accurately identify and manage risk while also addressing the myths and misconceptions that can undermine fair and effective responses to victim-survivors.

Early actions

- Work is underway to develop training for investigators and prosecutors.
- Appointment criteria for Senior Counsel have been gazetted in the Uniform Civil Rules.

SAFER training

The effectiveness of SAFER will be maximised by its informed and consistent application, achieved through training of specialist services, the Child and Family Support System, child protection services and SAPOL.

Relevant staff cohorts requiring different tiers of SAFER training will be identified, and a training plan and resources developed and tested by the Office of DFSV.

The Office of DFSV will oversee training implementation across agencies, with individual agencies managing the training schedules for their workforce.

Outcomes focus

Workforces and practice are responsive and capable

Key activities

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 2027 | • SAFER training plan and resources developed and tested |
| 2028 | • SAFER training commences across agencies |

Recommendations

15

Led by: Office of DFSV

South Australia Police

SAPOL will develop a trauma-informed, evidence-based and culturally safe training program to build core capability in recognising complex DFSV dynamics. Delivered using interactive online and in-person formats, participation will be mandatory for all sworn officers and relevant staff.

Additional advanced training providing role-specific capability and building on the general training described above will be informed by the Lived Experience Advisory Networks and the DFSV sector and refreshed regularly to reflect legislative, policy and practice developments. Participation in this training will be mandatory for officers in family violence, prosecutor and other specialist roles.

A change to the *Police Regulations 2014* will require SAPOL to report on all DFSV-related training and education activity in their annual report.

Outcomes focus

Workforces and practice are responsive and capable

Key activities

- 2026** • Amendments to *Police Regulations 2014*
- 2027** • SAPOL sworn officer training commences
- 2028** • SAPOL intensive training for family violence investigators and other specialist roles commences

Recommendations

37 38 39

Led by: SAPOL

Contemporary courts

Comprehensive and ongoing training, with additional intensive training for specialist staff, will be developed and implemented for prosecutors, judicial officers, court staff and police to ensure that myths and misconceptions are not perpetuated and amplified within the justice system.

This will be supported by a mandatory education and training framework for judicial officers, and a requirement for all new judicial appointments and Senior Counsel appointments to have completed harassment awareness training.

SAPOL General Orders and Prosecution Practice Notes will be updated to reflect the important advocacy role played by police prosecutors in ensuring that children and young people remain on intervention orders.

Outcomes focus

Workforces and practice are responsive and capable

Key activities

- 2026** • General Orders and Prosecution Practice Notes updated
- Training for court staff and judicial officers developed
- 2027** • Mechanism for mandating compliance with judicial education framework developed
- Training for court staff and judicial officers commences

Recommendations

40g 41 42 43 44 66 67

Led by: SAPOL; Courts Administration Authority; Attorney-General's Department

Future focused development

Co-design and consultation will help to build a 10-year workforce development strategy for the DFSV sector once there is more clarity on the workforce structure and skills required to deliver the ongoing services built or redesigned as part of the Royal Commission response.

SafeWork SA will take a strong advocacy role in seeking amendments to the national *Model Code of Practice: Managing psychosocial hazards at work* to include colonial and cultural load as an additional psychosocial hazard. Within the South Australian public sector, the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment (OCPSE) will develop a framework defining colonial and cultural load and recognising it as a systemic workforce issue. This will be released with guidance and training to support its application.

Outcomes focus

Workforces and practice are responsive and capable

Key activities

- 2027** • Advocacy undertaken with SafeWork Australia regarding additional psychosocial hazard
- 2028** • OCPSE framework for colonial and cultural load in SA public sector released, with supporting guidance and training
- 2029** • Consultation on and co-design of workforce development strategy

Recommendations

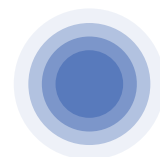
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Led by: Office of DFSV; SafeWork SA; OCPSE

Building a learning system



Continuously learn, adapt and improve in response to cultural knowledge, lived experience, practice wisdom and data

A strong continuous learning approach will guide the reform and development of the DFSV system and support it to pivot towards what we learn, driven by outcomes.

Mechanisms to bring together multiple forms of evidence, including cultural knowledge, lived experience expertise, practice wisdom and data are being developed to support a holistic understanding of the DFSV system.

Over time, these mechanisms coupled with improved data collection, management and sharing will enable a continuous cycle of learning – one that generates insights, shares them across the system and embeds them into service and system design and delivery to ensure that it is effective, culturally responsive, trauma-informed and person centred.

Importantly, it will help those within the system to see which efforts are driving progress towards positive outcomes and identify those that may require a shift in approach.

Early actions

- Partnership with Embolden to establish Adult Lived Experience Advisory Network.
- Members shortlisted for Lived Experience Advisory Group.
- Grant agreement issued to BetterStart Group to develop DFSV datasets for dashboard.
- Feasibility study scoping for a technological solution for data collection, management and sharing undertaken.

Improved information and data sharing

A linked data dashboard will be established to help measure impact and guide future evidence-based policy development and investment.

A feasibility study will be undertaken for a technological solution for data collection, records management and information sharing across government and with the DFSV sector. Identified solutions that meet the needs of service providers, reflect stakeholder perspectives, provide value-for-money, and are future-proofed will be scoped for further consideration by government. The feasibility study will also contemplate the requirements of a statewide DFSV accommodation register, supporting future consideration of recommendations 80 and 104.

Outcomes focus

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
- Feasibility study finalised
 - Dashboard enabled production of first data analysis products based on existing data

- 2027**
- Dashboard available

Recommendations

3 20

Led by: Office of DFSV; Department of Treasury and Finance

Continuous learning

The Government of South Australia has partnered with Embolden to establish an adult Lived Experience Advisory Network to guide DFSV system development through the provision of their advice and expertise.

The Office of DFSV is leading a co-design process to establish a Lived Experience Advisory Network for children and young people, allowing a specific focus on their experiences and advice to also be built into system development.

A Lived Experience Advisory Group drawn from the membership of the Lived Experience Advisory Networks will provide advice and expertise to the Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence.

Outcomes focus

Systems that provide programs and services are cohesive and effective

Key activities

- 2026**
- Adult LEAN established (complete)
 - Co-design process undertaken to establish children and young people LEAN
 - Lived Experience Advisory Group established

Recommendations

8 11 12

Led by: Office of DFSV



Building Safer Futures: Key target milestones

2026

- Establishment of Office of DFSV as Government Steward
- Establishment of SAPOL Service
- Expansion of Child and Family Support System (CFSS)
- Community selection for primary prevention pilots
- Individual safety and support packages available

2027

- First community awareness campaign running
- 5-year statewide DFSV strategies released
- Training for court staff and judicial officers commences
- Changes to *Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009* introduced into Parliament
- Regional forensic medical examination pilot starts
- Increased statewide capacity within Abuse Prevention Program
- New CFSS service starts
- Community primary prevention pilots commence
- Information website launches
- Launch of online portal for victim-survivors to access Courts data
- SAFER draft framework, tools and practice guidance developed
- SAPOL sworn officer training commences

2028

- SAFER training commences
- SAFER implementation begins
- Design of Integrated Response Teams and practice guidance finalised
- Vulnerable witness suites available
- SAPOL intensive training for specialist roles commences
- Harmful Sexual Behaviours framework finalised
- Implementation of central entry point (CEP) starts
- Individual safety and support packages available through CEP
- Operationalisation of first three integrated Response Teams

2029

- Expansion of regional forensic medical examination availability
- Support worker service commences in Family Violence Courts
- Remaining Integrated Response Teams commence



Government
of South Australia